

tients from whose blood these organisms were obtained.

3. The strain of streptococcus viridans isolated from the mouth of normal individuals are similar to those isolated from the blood of patients suffering from chronic endocarditis and are equally capable of producing heart lesions in the rabbit. In addition they found that the streptococci isolated from the blood gave no joint lesions, whereas those isolated from the mouth did give these lesions, and they consider this fact very significant.

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Spinal Fluid in Cases of Compression.

James B. Ayer and H. A. Viets review the literature and subdivide these cases into three types, each of which gives special fluid findings. They conclude that abnormal findings occur in the fluid distal to the point of compression and that these are chiefly marked increase in the protein content with or without yellow coloration of the fluid. Cell count is low and pressure of the fluid is always normal. The protein increase is above that met with in cases of tabes or paresis, the cells very few and chiefly endothelial in origin. There is a tendency in many of the cases to spontaneous coagulation. The Wassermann test was negative except where syphilis was present. Lange's colloidal gold test was positive in the maximum dilutions, i. e., the so-called "tumor zone." The culture was negative, although the syndrome was present in one case of epidural abscess. When the compression is at a low point in the spinal cord, the syndrome is more likely to be present and also accompanies acute processes more readily than chronic ones. It is also found more often in cases of intramedullary and meningitic lesions than in extradural processes.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION ON OCEAN VESSELS.

An article on "Hygiene and Sanitation on Ocean Vessels," by Surgeon Victor G. Heiser of the United States Public Health Service, which appeared in the "Military Surgeon" for November, 1916, is worthy of the attention of all physicians in sea-coast cities, as it discloses a state of affairs that may throw light on many cases of illness among passengers and crew where the diagnosis might otherwise be difficult to explain.

To quote briefly, the following unhygienic and unsanitary conditions are the rule on ocean vessels: "Water tanks on board are seldom sterilized, and if at any time during a vessel's history it has taken unsafe water into its tanks, it is more than likely that the supply will be infected for years afterward. Again, it often happens, when the drinking water tanks become exhausted during the voyage, that water from the boiler supply is pumped into the drinking tanks without reference as to whether the water is safe or not. . . .

"Experience further shows that outbreaks of diarrhea among the passengers occur on almost all vessels."

"Scarcely any cabins have thorough ventilation . . . so change of air does not take place." (The danger from tuberculosis is apparent.) "The crews' quarters are unusually dark and ill ventilated."

"Rats on ocean liners are frequently encountered in the cabins—the cabins usually have double walls and other places which afford convenient harboring for rats. Bed bugs are often present. Mattresses and bedding are seldom disinfected with steam or other means to rid them of vermin. Cockroaches are almost universal. Small red ants are even a greater nuisance."

"It is perhaps well for the comfort of the average passenger that he does not see the food either in the stores or during its preparation. Store-rooms are nearly always infested with rats, cock-

roaches and ants. The refrigerators are generally in a filthy condition. The cleansing of the ice-box is practically never carried out. Dish rags are generally in a filthy condition and dishes are usually washed in cold water only (and)—are nearly always greasy. . . . pineapples, after the dishes are washed, are placed in the dirty water and then cut in the fancy design."

"Bath tubs are reasonably clean, but no ventilation provided for bath rooms. The towels frequently emit a foul odor, due to having been kept for many days in a moist, unventilated state before they are sent to the laundry. Water closets are fair, but arrangements for ventilation are lacking."

"(Only) on ships which are required to comply with American laws is there a fair amount of space set aside for hospital use. The surgical instruments are seldom adequate in variety or in good condition. Antitoxins, vaccines, and other life-saving armamentaria are seldom carried."

"It is difficult to understand why an intelligent public will permit itself to be placed in an environment aboard ship which is not only unpleasant but frequently dangerous. The manner of preparing the food, the quality of the water which is served, the ventilation of the cabins, the meager medical facilities, and the vermin, are conditions which are frequently detrimental to health and could not be believed to exist if they were not constantly found by actual experience."

"It is practically impossible to obtain distilled or other safe drinking water on any of the ships which cross the Atlantic, Pacific or the Indian Oceans. A properly ventilated cabin is a rare exception."

In the light of the above observations, and the standing of the writer is a guarantee of their accuracy, it seems only proper that local health boards and officers should be granted authority to correct such glaring disregard of the rules for hygiene and sanitation of the habitations of "perhaps twenty million people (who) travel during the year and over a million persons constantly at sea."

G. H. T.

NOTICE.

An Army Medical Reserve Corps Officer is desired, for duty in San Francisco. Must pass the required army examination or already hold a commission. Salary, \$2,000.00 a year, with quarters, fuel and lights. Must devote whole time to duties. Preferably unmarried. Apply California State Journal of Medicine for particulars.

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